

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 140090

E.O. 11652:

TAGS:EMIN, ECON

SUBJECT: THAI TIN PRODUCTION COSTS

1. TIN PRODUCTION COST FIGURES FOR LAST HALF OF 1977 SUBMITTED BY THAI DELEGATION TO INTERNATIONAL TIN COUNCIL SHOW SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE OVER COSTS FOR SECOND HALF OF 1976 REPORTED AVERAGE PRODUCTION COSTS IN TAI BAHT PER PIKUL OF TIN CONCENTRATE FOR JULY - DECEMBER 1976 AND JULY - DECEMBER 1977 IN GRAVEL PUMP AND ON SHORE DREDGE SECTORS ARE AS FOLLOWS: (COST PER PIKUL OF CONCENTRATE MUST BE INCREASED BY FACTOR OF ABOUT 37 PER CENT TO ARRIVE AT COST PER PIKUL OF METAL).

AVERAGE PRODUCTION COST PER PIKUL OF CONCENTRATE
Y IN BAHT

COMPONENT OF COST ON SHORE DREDGE GRAVEL PUMP
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	1976	1977	1976	1977
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POWER	894	1015	1539	1725
LABOR	1055	1110	1222	1126
MATERIALS	679	866	810	993

OTHER CHANGES AND				
OVERHEAD	111	154	174	191
DEPRECIATION	162	352	302	310
EXPLORATION AND				
DEVELOPMEN,	63	14	59	55
REALIZATION COSTS	121	294	154	310
PRODUCTION COST				
WITHOUT ROYALTY				
AND TRIBUTE	3085	3805	4260	4709
ROYALTY AND TRIBUTE	1779	3426	1859	3426
TOTAL COST	4864	7231	6119	8135
EQUIVALENT IN METAL	6663	9906	8440	11144

2. THE THAI SUBMISSION DID NOT INCLUDE DATA ON CHANGES IN WAGE RATES AND UNIT PRICES OF MINING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES WHICH WOULD ENABLE US TO PINPOINT REASONS FOR THE RISE IN TIN PRODUCTION COST I.E. WHETHER THE COST IS CHIEFLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF INPUTS OR THE INCREASED USAGE OF INPUTS PER UNIT OF OUTPUT, OR BOTH.

3. THE EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PROVIDE FOR PERIODS IN QUESTION DATA ON WAGE RATES IN TIN MINING INDUSTRY, INTEREST RATES ON LOANS, AND UNIT PRICE DATA FOR REPRESENTATIVE TYPES OF MINING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES SUCH AS: GASOLINE, DIESEL FUEL, ELECTRIC POWER, DIESEL UNCLASSIFIED

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ENGINES, PUMPS AND TRUCKS. EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF PRODUCTION COST TRENDS WOULD BE WELCOME.

4. WHILE PRODUCTION COSTS ARE ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL FACTORS AFFECTING OUR DECISION ON APPROPRIATE FLOOR AND CEILING PRICES FOR TIN, THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. INFORMATION NEEDED IN TIME FOR ECONOMIC AND PRICE REVIEW MEETING PANEL IN BANGKOK JUNE 12-16. PLEASE INFO REPLY TO AMEMBASSIES LONDON AND KUALA LUMPUR. CHRISTOPHER

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